

CLAIMS

1. A data processing method of an image processing system in which a server apparatus and a data processing apparatus communicate with each other to perform a predetermined data process, comprising:

5 a first extraction step of extracting a feature amount of electronic data to be output from a printer apparatus;

10 a first transmission step of transmitting original specifying information including the feature amount extracted in said first extraction step and a user ID for discriminating a print requester of the electronic data, to the server apparatus;

15 a control step of controlling generation of print data to be output to the printer apparatus, on the basis of original certification information notified by the server apparatus; and

20 a print step of causing the printer apparatus to print the print data generated in said control step and information indicating that the print data corresponds to an original.

2. A data processing method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

25 a second extraction step of extracting additional information included in an original certification print image to be output from the

printer apparatus based on the print data generated in said control step;

5 a second transmission step of transmitting to the server apparatus update information including the additional information extracted in said second extraction step, a new feature amount extracted from new electronic data in said first extraction step, the feature amount and the user ID;

10 an administration step of receiving the original specifying information transmitted from the data processing apparatus, registering the received information in a storage unit, and administrating the registered information;

15 an update step of updating the content of the original specifying information, by verifying the update information transmitted from the data processing apparatus and the original specifying information; and

20 a notification step of, when original certification printing is requested by the data processing apparatus, notifying the data processing apparatus of the original certification information to be added to the electronic data, by referring the original specifying information transmitted from the data processing apparatus and the original specifying information registered in the storage unit.

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3. A data processing method according to Claim
2, wherein said administration step performs file
administration of the original specifying information
and administration information of the original
5 specifying information.

4. A data processing method according to Claim
2, wherein said update step updates administration
information stored in the storage unit.
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5. A data processing method according to Claim
4, wherein the administration information includes a
registration number, a registration date, version
information, an update history and a confirmation
15 history for administrating the original specifying
information.

6. A data processing method according to Claim
2, wherein said update step updates any one of a
20 registered registration date, a feature amount,
version information, and an update history included
in the information stored in the storage unit.

7. A data processing method according to Claim
2, further comprising:
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a confirmation step of, when original
confirmation is requested by the data processing

apparatus, confirming originality of the original
specifying information by referring the original
specifying information transmitted from the data
processing apparatus and the original specifying
5 information registered in the storage unit; and
a confirmation notification step of notifying
the data processing apparatus of a confirmation
result in said confirmation step.

10 8. A data processing method according to Claim
2, wherein the storage unit stores, as administration
information, information specifying a date when the
feature amount is recorded.

15 9. A data processing method according to Claim
1, wherein said control step adds the feature amount
to the print data as a digital watermark.

20 10. A data processing method according to Claim
1, wherein said control step adds area information,
for inputting signature information, to the print
data.

25 11. A data processing method according to Claim
10, further comprising a step of extracting a
signature image drawn in the area information added
in said control step, and transmitting the extracted

signature image to the server apparatus.

12. A data processing method according to Claim
1, further comprising a step of, when reprinting is
5 requested by the data processing apparatus, notifying
the data processing apparatus of administration
information to be added to the electronic data, by
referring the original specifying information
transmitted from the data processing apparatus and
10 the original specifying information registered in the
storage unit.

13. A data processing method according to Claim
12, further comprising a confirmation step of, when
15 the reprinting is requested by the data processing
apparatus, confirming determination as to whether or
not to perform the printing by referring restriction
information.

20 14. A data processing method according to Claim
13, wherein the restriction information indicates the
maximum number of printing of the electronic data or
an upper limit value of the number of printing of the
electronic data.

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15. A data processing method according to Claim
13, wherein the restriction information is original

specifying information for specifying a user other than registered users who can print the electronic data.

- 5 16. A data processing method according to Claim 13, wherein the restriction information indicates a date or a time when the electronic data can be printed.